

# Fiscal Services Division

## Legislative Services Agency

### Fiscal Note

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HF 2462 - CHINA Determination & Mediation (LSB 5234 HV)  
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Fiscal Note Version - New

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#### **Description**

House File 2462 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement five or more child welfare diversion and mediation projects through the local offices of the county attorney in FY 2005. The projects are to be located in separate counties to promote the use of trained child welfare mediators that will work with key parties in selected cases to achieve resolution as an alternative to formal juvenile court adjudication; improve permanency for children; promote family unification; and reduce State expenditures associated with adjudication of child protection cases.

The Bill also requires the DHS to coordinate with the projects for the collection of data to be used to evaluate the projects' effectiveness. In addition, the DHS is to measure and evaluate any cost savings attributable to the projects that may then be allocated to assist the projects with operating expenses. The DHS is to submit an initial evaluation of the projects to the General Assembly by December 15, 2007.

#### **Assumptions**

1. There will be five diversion and mediation pilot projects implemented at an annual estimated cost ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per project for local project coordination and management and to reimburse trained mediators.
2. The DHS will have additional information technology duties ranging from 500 to 1,500 hours at a cost of \$65 per hour associated with these projects. These will include the collection of data from existing systems to assist projects in determining target populations and baseline performance; assisting with tracking and monitoring outcomes for selected cases; tracking cost savings; and working with and educating projects on data collection requirements, as well as maintaining central data tracking supports for each project.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

House File 2462 will result in increased General Fund expenditures to the DHS ranging from approximately \$155,000 to \$350,000 in FY 2005.

	FY 2005	
	Low	High
Pilot Projects	\$ 125,000	\$ 250,000
Information Tecnology - DHS	30,000	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 155,000</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>

House File 2462 may also have potential long-term savings to the Judicial Branch; however, due to insufficient information, the amount of savings cannot be determined.

## **Sources**

Department of Human Services  
Iowa County Attorneys Association  
Judicial Branch

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Dennis C Prouty

March 9, 2004

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.

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